

COSUMNES AMERICAN BEAR YUBA JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Board Meeting

November 4, 2020

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Andy Fecko, Placer County Water Agency
Ken Payne, El Dorado County Water Agency
Brian Mueller, El Dorado Irrigation District
Greg Jones, Nevada Irrigation District

Attending: Laura Peters, NID Board of Directors, Division IV
Andrew McClure, Legal Counsel
Danette Austin, Nevada Irrigation District
Darin Reintjes, Placer County Water Agency
Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency
Kyle Ericsson, El Dorado County Water Agency
Heather Knutson, Placer County Water Agency
Tami Snowcraft, El Dorado County Water Agency
Neysa King, Nevada Irrigation District
Ashley Overhouse, South Yuba River Citizens League
Marie Davis, Placer County Water Agency
Tracy Eden-Bishop, El Dorado Irrigation District
Jason Muir, NV5

Location: PCWA American Rivers Room, 144 Ferguson Rd, Auburn, CA

Call to Order

Greg Jones called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Public Comment

Greg Jones called for public comment. None was given.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda included:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on June 16, 2020. A **MOTION** to approve the meeting minutes was made by Andy Fecko seconded by Ken Payne. The motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

General Orders

The Board discussed the following general orders:

2. Treasurer’s Report.

Treasurer Tami Snowcraft reported that an audit is scheduled for later this month. No membership dues are required at this time based on the cash balance in the bank account (approximately \$129,000).

Greg Jones called for public comment on the Treasurer’s Report. None was given.

3. Discuss recent meeting with RWMG and JPA counsel to review MOU.

Greg Jones reported on the recent meeting between RWMG NGO member representatives and JPA legal counsel Andrew McClure.

SYRCL provided a written statement regarding the MOU, which was received immediately prior to this JPA meeting. Ashley Overhouse provided a brief overview of the statement during the meeting.

JPA legal counsel Andrew McClure has drafted a revised MOU.

4. Report on Status of CABY IRWM Plan.

Jason Muir discussed the status of the IRWMP. Since the June 2020 JPA Board of Directors meeting, the following has been accomplished:

- The IRWMP administrative draft public comment period closed with minimal non-substantive comments.
- The IRWMP project list has been updated but still needs to be evaluated for plan inclusion based on the procedures in Chapter 12.
- RWMG NGO members maintain that they will not sign the MOU as previously presented.

In October the JPA requested NV5 to revise Chapter 4 (Governance) and Chapter 12 (Project Review Process) for compliance with DWR requirements:

- The revised chapters were submitted to the RWMG on October 23.
- To date comments on the revised chapters have been received from EID and NID.
- The RWMG plans to meet on Monday, November 9, to discuss the revised chapters.
- The RWMG is considering another short public review period for redrafted chapters only in early December (this needs to be discussed with the full RWMG).

Following is a tentative schedule for finalizing the IRWMP:

- Mid- to late- November 2020 – RWMG finalizes Chapters 4 and 12
- Early December 2020 – Chapters 4 and 12 public review period

- Early January 2021 – Address public comment on Chapters 4 and 12 and finalize IRWMP
- Mid-January 2021 – Public meeting to approve IRWMP
- Early February 2021 – Submit IRWMP to DWR
- IRWMP adoption by stakeholders following DWR approval

5. Discussion of Status of JPA Organization.

Andy Fecko observed that the primary mission of the CABY JPA was to finance and facilitate the update of the IRWMP, which is nearing completion. Upon completion of the plan update, JPA members have the opportunity to withdraw from the JPA or vote to disband the JPA.

Heather Knutsen discussed opportunities being pursued in the American River watershed by PCWA with the Regional Water Authority (RWA). A recent American River Basin study is in favor of a larger “supershed” organizational concept that would benefit multiple agencies, incorporating a portion of the CABY region boundary and also the upper reaches of the American River watershed. DWR is aware of the “supershed” approach.

Andy Fecko stated that it may be appropriate to disband the JPA when the CABY IRWM Plan is completed, or when it is approved by DWR, which could potentially be accomplished in first quarter 2021.

Ken Payne agreed with this approach in the interest of efficiency.

Andy McClure observed that it might be helpful to briefly overview what the dissolution and winding up of a public agency looks like, and suggested that it would be appropriate to prepare a memorandum to the Board members.

Greg Jones stated that NID is in support of the JPA dissolution, observed that the JPA has invested significantly in the IRWMP update process, and agrees that it should be completed in Q1 2021.

Brian Mueller stated that EID is also interested in the watershed-wide organizational concept, which may be more efficient and eliminate redundancies.

Andy Fecko stated that plan acceptance by DWR may be an appropriate milestone to reach prior to JPA dissolution. Andy Fecko requested that Andy McClure provide a confidential legal memorandum to the JPA Board of Directors regarding details of the JPA dissolution process.

Board of Directors Items/Reports

Andy Fecko observed that PCWA is hopeful for rain, and reported that PBS KVIE will air a report regarding the “supershed” concept on Monday, November 9 at 7:30 pm as part of the “Rob on the Road” program. The report was filmed last week so the content will be very current. Brian Mueller, Ken Payne and Greg Jones had nothing further to report.

Adjournment

Greg Jones adjourned the meeting at 2:58 pm.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the CABY JPA Board of Directors is tentatively scheduled for March 2021, but no date has been set.